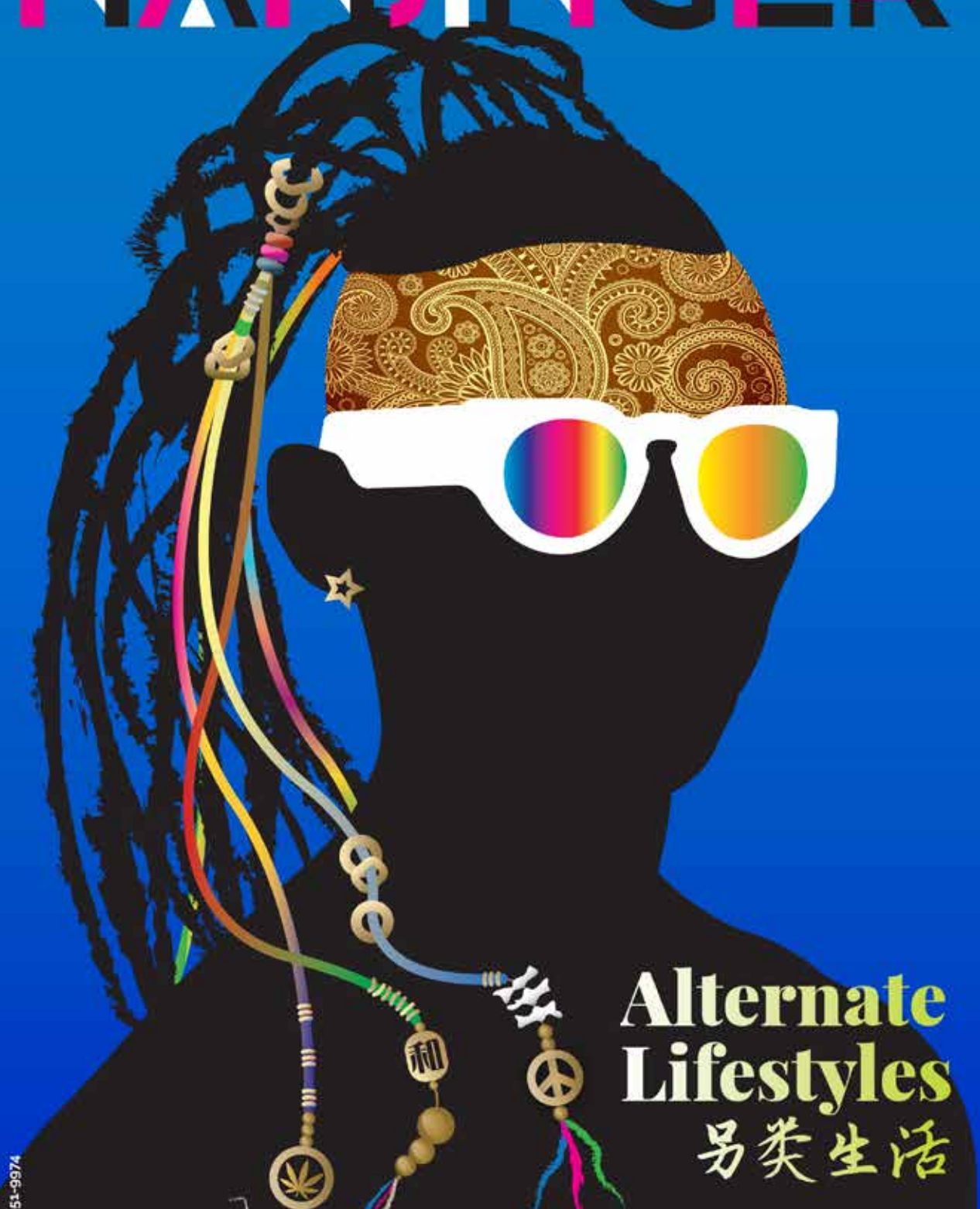


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An abstract graphic design on a blue background. It features a series of horizontal and diagonal stripes in white, black, and pink/magenta. A large, stylized white 'A' shape is prominent in the upper left. Below it, there are more stripes and a large, thick black curved line that forms a partial circle. At the bottom, there are three vertical black bars and a large pink/magenta 'U' shape. The overall composition is dynamic and geometric.

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Introducing some of our contributors, editors & designers

Editor-in-chief and Music Critic, Frank Hossack, has been a radio host and producer for the past 33 years, the past 24 of which working in media in China, in the process winning four New York Festivals awards for his work, in the categories Best Top 40 Format, Best Editing, Best Director and Best Culture & The Arts. 贺福是我们杂志的编辑和音乐评论员，在过去的33年里一直从事电台主持和电台制片的工作。在中国有近24年的媒体工作经验。工作期间他曾经四次获得过纽约传媒艺术节大奖，分别是世界前40强节目奖，最佳编辑奖，最佳导演奖以及最佳文化艺术奖。

As an Australian journalist living in Nanjing for many years, Renee Gray has a background in research, print and online publishing, taking great pleasure in discovering more about Nanjing with every article. 作为在南京居住多年的澳大利亚新闻工作者，Renee Gray有着调研以及印刷品和线上出版物的工作背景。她总是乐于在每篇文章里发现关于南京的内容。

Matthew Stedman has spent years living and working in China. He has sold Chinese tea in the UK, and loves discussing the miraculous leaf with new (and suspicious) audiences. He however never feels happier than when researching the product here in beautiful South China.

Matthew Stedman在中国生活工作了多年。多年在中英两国从事茶叶贸易的他，喜欢和新读者讨论神奇的东方树叶(虽然有时他的读者保持怀疑态度)。没什么比在美丽的江南走访品尝各种茶叶更让他开心的事了。

Legal contributor Carlo D'Andrea is Chair of the Legal & Competition Working group of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China; Shanghai Chapter, Coordinator of the Nanjing Working Group of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in China and has taught Chinese law (commercial and contractual) at Rome 3 University.

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Roy Ingram has over 25 years experience working as an artist and Creative Director. His early career was with agencies in London but for the past 8 years he has lived and worked in Nanjing.

Roy先生有着超过25年的创意总监和艺术家的工作经历。他早期的职业生涯是在伦敦的一家机构里开始的，但是在八年前他决定来到南京生活工作。

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www.thenanjinger.com
SEPTEMBER 2017

Sponsor 主办单位
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Publisher 编辑出版
The Nanjinger 《南京人》杂志社

Operating Organization 运营机构
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南京贺福文化传媒有限公司

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Volume 7 / Issue 8 / June 2017
“Mirror Mirror”
Copyright 2017, SinoConnexion Ltd.
Published in the United Kingdom
ISSN 2051-9974

The Day After the Longest Day

By Maitiu Brallaghan

Morning sees him set off
Back up the forest track
He had dropped down the night before.

This time it seems much steeper,
His busted knee now paining
As he cuts his route from Crianlarich

That traces beneath green hills
Which darken, rising into frayed clouds
High above a distant road.

The rain sprays against his face.
The only other figure, small and dark,
Scurries onward some way ahead

As he limps awkwardly onward
Along the 96 mile highland trail,
Wondering at what it is to feel so alive.

EDITORIAL

California Dreamin'

All the leaves are brown. Well, not quite yet in Nanjing. Yet, September still springs autumn upon us, the perfect time for getting out and about.

Some do it on the back of a noisy, gas-guzzling two wheeler, generating nervous glances from those who regard them as “ling lei” (p10-12), others are seeking to satisfy cravings of a different kind, prompting the notion of whether it is possible to be a vegan in China (p18-19), while some choose to make it a more permanent move; herein meet the Chinese girl who back packed her way across the world (p14-16).

For me, I'd be safe and warm, if I was in L.A.

Welcome to “Alternate Lifestyles” from The Nanjinger.

Ed.

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ALTERNATE LIFESTYLES



The
“*Linglei*”
of
Chinese
Society

By Winston Zha

Picture this. It's a beautiful cloudy Sunday afternoon, and you're having a pleasant stroll back from the bakery with a bag full of cakes. Suddenly, the thunderous roar of motorcycle engines grows into the silence as a band of hairy bikers skid to a stop at the four-way intersection.



The pungent smell of gasoline fills the air. Children point. Adults whisper, and couples stare at the group clad in leather and ripped jeans as one of them takes off his helmet. It is black, with a flaming skull painted on it, and beneath the head full of dreadlocks is a Chinese face. As some of the bikers light cigarettes, you overhear a mother telling her child, "Stay away from those people, dear; heaven forbid you ever become one of those '另类' ('linglei'; other kind)". As the light turns green, the front motorcyclist revs his engines and pulls into a wheelie as the rest of the band follows suit; blaring their engines at everyone behind them as they ride off into the distance.

Now, if you are anything like me, you would be left dumbstruck and even slightly amazed at the group which had just passed by, especially due to the fact that they were Chinese (maybe you feel terrified, happy, no reaction, you tell me), but it is the very fact that you have some sort of reaction that is becoming an issue, especially in China. Although alternative lifestyles have slowly been accepted into popular western culture, its gradual development within China is a completely different story. As I am sure many readers have realised, the concept of living an alternative lifestyle has slowly spread throughout Chinese society; first in the form of the uniquely China sub-culture linglei, while other spiritual or philosophical lifestyles such as hippies, gypsies, artists and bikers have only recently started to show up within local culture. The concept of living an alternative lifestyle is already old news to Chinese society,

but the traditional mindset of Chinese people allows little room for acceptance of different conducts or habits, which, in the constantly changing paradigm of popular culture, should really be more open to different ideas as China's international reach continues to grow.

Traditional western alternative lifestyles all have some sort of driving belief or set of values behind them; the hippies believing in the pagan back-to-nature type of spiritual lifestyle, modern nomads valuing the vastness of the world and believing in the yearning to explore it, even nudists who believe that the naked body is the true natural form of humans. Although China has shown a degree of immunity to western cultural waves such as the tattoo wave in the 60s or the hippie wave in the 70s, it too has experienced ripples of Chinese alternative lifestyle culture; most notably the linglei in the 70s-80s. Thought to erupt from political dissonance with the Chinese communist party, these people living linglei lifestyles originally displayed behaviour best described as a rebellious hipster. This alternative conduct often began with an individual dropping out of school, or disagreeing with the current system of society in one way or another as they rejected the values they were taught as a child, going on to living a life without a care in the world. As the driving force and values behind this type of alternative lifestyle stemmed from China's political system and its society, the phrase linglei came to obtain a negative connotation with time as many linglei expressed political radicalism against China's conformist political party.

Nowadays, the term linglei has slowly started to regain a neutral connotation as more Chinese people have started to flock to such lifestyles. As its definition in Chinese society starts to shift from "nonconformist"

to “alternative lifestyle”, its acceptance and the public’s view of these linglei will undoubtedly start to improve. I am sure many readers have or will come to feel the impact of this cultural paradigm shift as I have in my own life; for my piano teacher is probably someone you would define as a freestyle artist. You see, he is not exactly what you would expect a piano teacher to look or be like; with dreadlocks, a hip sense of fashion as well as a very professional but relaxed attitude towards musical education that makes him seem like a cool teacher from whom anybody would enjoy learning. As he said to me once, he hated the forced smiles and the dinners he would have to attend in order to save “face” for his boss and himself, so he opted to hone his piano skills instead to become the accredited competition pianist he is. Today, due to his extensive knowledge in the field of classical piano music, he merely needs to teach for 7-8 hours a week in order to live a very comfortable life in modern China. This just goes to show that these alternative lifestyleists, or linglei, are simply people who reject the typical lifestyle laid out by others and instead wish to carve out their own path through the journey of life.

In truth, it is the people like this within any community that often grow into the crown jewels of society; Bob Marley’s hippie and relaxed lifestyle brought the soothing rhythm of reggae music into the mainstream, Edgar Allen Poe’s gothic lifestyle led to the creation of definitive literary masterpieces, or even college dropout Steve Jobs’ electronic hobbyist life which eventually came to lay the foundations of the information era. It has been these pioneers of new lifestyles who have




turned us from the cavemen we were thousands of years ago into civilised members of the complex, modern communities we have today.

Now, what do you believe defines an alternative lifestyle?

I think that to truly answer this question, one must look at what it really means to live an alternative lifestyle regardless of cultural, racial, or any other type of context. I believe that in its very essence is an embracing of the avant-garde of life itself, while daring to embark upon a life against the norm. In these terms, the “norm” then would be the defining factor of alternative lifestyle; with the equivocal nature of human diversity, the term “alternative lifestyle” would be completely contingent to any individual’s own interpretation of the norm.

Keeping this in mind, to the view of the modern West, the typical lifestyle of China itself could be viewed as an alternative lifestyle. As the West developed, China downright denied its inquiry based education system and insisted on sticking to their traditional learning by memorisation, while Chinese citizens often come to live lives entirely different from their Western counterparts, due to differences in cultural values, beliefs and traditions.

By this logic, do expatriates also count as alternative lifestyleists? We live our lives amidst the vastly different society of China, yet we retain the core beliefs and values of the West or from wherever we come in the world to live through experiences unparalleled by any other type of lifestyle. You may not have come to realise it, but you too are an alternative lifestyleist. 

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INTO THE WILD

*Chinese Girl
Couchsurfs to
Contentment*



By Maya Visari



*"I truly believe the world is
not half as dangerous
as other people think it is,
travelling has taught me a lot"*

Cecelia Xu

Born in a military hospital in Huangshan, Cecelia was raised on an army base until she was 5 years old. Tragically, her mother passed away from cancer at that time, and her and her father moved back to his hometown of Wuxi; where she was to remain until she was 17 years old. Opening up to the Nanjinger, Cecelia revealed her story; the more she revealed, the more it became a shining beacon of independence born out of modern day China.

Young Chinese are becoming more independent and slowly we see social changes amongst them rippling in thought and behaviour. However, when it comes to venturing abroad, Chinese people still notoriously travel in packs. Tour groups on mass descend upon famous sights all around the world, while study abroad students stick together, rarely venturing into local social scenes.

Back in Wuxi, Cecelia's father later remarried. "His new wife was very mean to me. A year later they moved away and sold the house. My school marks were good and the school didn't want to lose me, so they offered me free study, food and accommodation. I was much happier spending time at school than at home. So from age 10 on, I lived at the school, alone. I became very independent, physically and emotionally, from a young age", she said.

"I remember that I was horrible at taking care of myself at the beginning; I didn't shower for 3 months, didn't eat one proper meal for a year; only snacks and porridge (not because my family was poor, but merely because of [a] lack of care) so from age 12 I got much better at it", she went on to say.

At university Cecelia watched a lot of western movies and TV shows; it was at this point she fell in love with Western culture. Her favourite movie became "Into The Wild" and that is what she wanted to do.

When we think of world travellers and back packing youths, Chinese faces do not come to mind. Instead, we stereotypically envisage Western dreadlocked and tie-died 20 somethings; growing beards and working on farms. Nevertheless, the youth of China today is going through what we may call a revival of the travelling soul; going at it alone, not afraid of what might come or what might be left behind. Numbers are still few but

they are out there, in the wild, having adventures.

Cecilia's first idea was to teach Chinese to foreigners, yet there was not even a market for that at the time, so she set about teaching at English schools. "In China there is a big range of foreigners. There are a few unbelievably ridiculous ones but most of them are great. Foreign friends in China made me realise that the world is so big. I thought, why not go out and see it myself?"

So, after working in the ESL industry in Nanjing for almost 8 years, she set out, alone, with a backpack and her savings. "I spent 2 weeks island hopping, in the Philippines before rubbing shoulders with the Chinese ambassador in Laos. I went on to Thailand and Indonesia for a friend's wedding and I also spent some time in Malaysia", she said.

Aside from cheap hotspots such as Magaluf, Ibiza and Mallorca in Spain, where youngsters only go to party, Southeast Asia is usually a first stop for most young backpackers when they set out to go "travelling". Known for its cheap countries and laid back attitude, youngsters can be heard one-upping each other for how many countries they have "done". So it is not surprising that Southeast Asia is now the number one travel destination for young Chinese travellers. It is close, cheap, well used to tourists and set up for Chinese people.

"The UK, however, is where I had the most fun. I couch surfed the whole way and spent only £2,000 for 3 months of travel. My very first host was Italian. The first day we met, he had to go to work, so he just left me with the key and the empty house, and asked me to help myself! They're super friendly people and there's so much trust".

When asked what her family think about her decision to travel and live abroad, Cecilia said, "I think it's more about 'face'. They think I have put shame on them because their neighbours know that they have a very 'old' daughter who's still not married. My grandma thinks I'm worthless because I'm no longer in my early 20's. She thinks only divorced men or widowers would want to marry me now because I've lost my value. My dad's just like any other Chinese parent; can't wait for me to get married and have children. Otherwise I am being selfish and irresponsible".

It is hard to accept, as foreigners, that Chinese families treat their children in such a manner, shaming them out of living a life of their own. So it is refreshing when I meet young Chinese people choosing to live the way they want.

"I became good friends with Lee, a busker in Cardiff. We spent a week together; busking, talking, drawing, dancing and laughing. He treated me very well [and] unconditionally; I think his heart is pure as gold. One of my other hosts Ralf (a Zoologist) gave me his books to read. I didn't even have time to visit the city because I was so busy studying! I was so inspired by him", said Cecelia as she reminisced.

"Let me tell you about Jason, my host in Bristol. We walked into the city centre in just a robe with bare feet; people found us funny (or crazy) but I loved it. We had nice chats with homeless guys on the street as well.

"I couldn't find a bus back to Bristol from Cornwall after a music festival. So I wrote a note and stuck it on one of those movable toilet doors. Soon I got a phone call and I got a lift from a girl! After my experience in the UK, especially meeting old friends and making new friends, I felt that I had so much energy and I discovered that I love people so much! I love the 'trust' people have with strangers. It makes us feel that our world is a big loving family."

Up until this point Cecelia had been couch surfing in strangers' homes. When pressed about any safety concerns she had or problems that occurred, she insisted all she met were good natured and no harm came to her. While fatalities as a result of the practice are low, too many reports online expose men who have been sentenced for rape; it therefore remains a rather dangerous way for a single woman to travel.

Fortunately Cecelia did not have to stay with strangers exclusively as she had the opportunity to bunk with her many foreign friends whom she had met in China. "I stayed with my friends Tom and Jake whom have a camper van, so I got to fulfill my dream of travelling in a camper van. I learnt how to cook, wash and sleep in it. After that I met a couple, James and Anja in Manchester; the next thing I know is that they're driving me around the Highlands. We spent 10 days together; driving, hiking and camping."

"I stayed with my friend Nicky in London for 3 weeks. She's a visual artist. We went to a graffiti festival and I loved it. Nicky has a friend from Brazil. He was staying in the UK illegally. He didn't have money or a permanent job, but that didn't stop him from being happy. Most people couldn't imagine living like that but he was happy and generous. I guess that's what travelling brings us; we get to see more diversity of the world."

"I love the people, the culture, the food and even

the weather! The only thing I didn't like is that people sometimes don't tell how they really feel, but rather say it in a very concealed way. I'd rather them tell me what they really want or dislike and be more straightforward. In Australia, I realised people are the same way. That's when I started to think maybe I should be the one to change my way of speaking, not them". Traveling for almost 2 years, Cecelia says she never came across any other Chinese people. "I didn't even encounter Asians. Maybe because the places I went were too 'local'".

While traveling through Malaysia, she got talking to an Italian traveller, who told her about his time spent working in Australia; he described it as "life in heaven". Cecelia applied for that job straight away.


It was while living on a remote island off the coast of Australia and working on an oyster farm, that Cecelia answered an ad that had been posted on a job search site. The ad was looking for a part-time caretaker on a 26-acre mango farm in exchange for free accommodation and food. The person who had posted the ad started chatting with her and it did not take them long to find out they were a perfect match.

After finding love Cecelia is now living deep in the Northern Queensland bush. Although she misses the convenience of China, with regards to online shopping, she says this is where she is meant to be. "The best thing is that I found a perfect job nearby; a horse riding camp, where I can fulfill my dreams", she said.

When I asked her what she missed about China she simply said, "The food and snacks!!! I miss convenient Internet shopping in China. It's so cheap, thorough and fast. I used to buy everything online. Now I have to drive half an hour to town if I want to buy anything".

Living in deep-country Australia, Cecelia says she was struck by the closed-mindedness of the people there. "The native people I have met in Australia are not world travellers. Most of them haven't been out of the country", she said. As a foreigner living in China it is nice to hear my own rhetoric said back to me about my own country from a mainlander; the 'awareness' that travelling brings.

Always in the back of her mind; getting out and being away, after her hard work in Australia pays off, Cecelia plans on jetting off again. "This time I'd like to visit South America, Europe, the UK again, Italy and Africa."

Extensive travel remains one of the only ways to fully open one's mind and begin to scratch the surface of the world in which we live. It helps us to be more aware, compassionate, wise and understanding of those foreigners that cross borders to live in our lands. Revival of the travelling movement is only going to become stronger now that we have awoken the sleeping dragon. 

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Orthodox Veganism in China

For the Plant-Based Master Only

Okay, so I decided to go vegan while living in China. Was it a good move? Ultimately for my body, yes, it has made some improvements. As regards my stance on the use of animal products; difficult.

As the avid meat and dairy lover that I am; always keen to get my fill of some Stilton blue or a slice of prosciutto whenever I can, I was been over the moon when cheese, ham, wine and bread started to become more readily available and reasonably priced in Nanjing.

So you can imagine the secret disappointment one side of me felt when the other side valiantly announced I would go vegan; skip vegetarian and go straight to vegan. No more poached eggs, pizza (with cheese) or chicken salads. No more, roast dinners, succulent steaks or cereal.



At my age, I am quite comfortable with vegetarianism. I certainly understand it and it does not seem strange or difficult. However, veganism to me was pretty darned illusive. Of course, I had heard of it. However, up until just a few years ago, it had not filtered into the mainstream as much as it is at present. Now, we see an abundance of celebrities and trend-setters following plant-based diets, and thanks to the virality of Facebook and YouTube, becoming informed about it is no longer the challenge it was.

According to The Times of Israel, activists say Israel has the highest per capita vegan population of anywhere in the world. And the trend appears to be accelerating. While the African-Hebrew Israelites have abstained from animal products for decades, activists have cheered the recent growth in vegan awareness. The Israeli subsidiary of pizza chain Domino's Pizza said the company has sold approximately 300,000 vegan pizzas since launching the range last year.

In came the APPs on my phone, designed to help one "go vegan", filled with tip-bits for recipes and the like. I read articles online and watched YouTube videos that taught one how to make cheese from tofu and cashew nut icing.

I always thought that going vegetarian in China would be easy, and I still do. What with China's heavy emphasis on vegetables and fruit, rice, noodles, tea, soy products and rubbish meat options, one could very much be fooled into thinking that strict veganism was attainable. These days, fruit is becoming a major hit as are salads and sushi. Thus my plunge into veganism felt blissfully ignorant.

It all started when I watched a documentary (of course); like others I had watched in the past, this one tried to show me the facts, how animals are treated and the science behind why I do not need to eat certain things. However, it was not until the story began to document the lives of seriously sick people, and how drastically their health improved after living with a vegan diet, did it really convince me that this was something I wanted to try.

Not only is mass production of meat and dairy a scary and devastating thing to watch, the science behind why our bodies do not actually need it and what we consumer as a result, was enough for me to wonder whether such practices are now a common occurrence all over the world.

According to American animal rights organisation People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), animal food production now surpasses both the transportation industry and electricity generation as the greatest source of greenhouse gasses. And reported by DT Lyons, AE Freeman and AL Kuck in the Journal of Dairy Science in 1991, due to extensive biological manipulation, today's dairy cows produce up to 12 times more milk than they would naturally produce to feed a calf. The Welfare of Cows in

the Dairy Industry by the Humane Society of the United States says, "To keep them lactating at maximum yields, cows are artificially, repeatedly and forcibly impregnated year after year. The constant cycle of pregnancy and birth creates a huge surplus of calves".


Concerning our bodies, the antiseptics used to disinfect cow teats can provide a source of iodine, but has been found to boost the level of pus in the milk of cows with staph-infected udders. When a cow is infected, greater than 90 percent of the somatic cells in her milk are neutrophils, the inflammatory immune cells that form pus. The average somatic cell count in U.S. milk per spoonful is 1,120,000, according to Michael Greger M.D. FACLM. Not much perhaps, but it accompanies the antiseptic and hormones that is pumped into cows.

The first 2 weeks was easy; no milk nor yoghurt, no cheese nor meat; easy, until the third week, when beans and rice became a bit old. While my trusty APPs were on hand with wonderful vegan recipes, a lot of them included meat replacement products, which are abundant back home but non-existent here. Furthermore, the recipes simply do not account for a busy person shopping in a Chinese supermarket or wet market, who also only has a very very limited amount of time each week to prepare meals.

Eating out was my next challenge. Again I felt it would be easy. "I'll just order vegetable dishes and soup", I could be heard saying. Wrong! At a Chinese restaurant almost all vegetable dishes (aside from green options) come with small amounts of meat mixed in, the soups contain egg and all the best dishes are the meat choices. Of course I knew this! Of course, but I forgot... like many things and habits... we forget.

It is even more difficult at Western restaurants in Nanjing, perhaps they over compensate for the lack of quality meat available for foreigners, but the emphasis on meat and cheese is large; Wagas and Element Fresh excluded, but who can afford to eat there everyday?!

I came to a realisation on my China vegan journey and this is it; if my reasons for going vegan while in China are based on strict views over the use of animal products, then it is going to be an uphill struggle and not nearly as easy to do as perhaps anywhere else, but if my reasons are purely for my own body, then moving towards a vegan diet is doable.

If I'm willing to have a pizza every now and then, to pick around the meat hidden in my cabbage dish and remember to ask the vender not to add egg to my fried rice, my life will be easier. So that's the path I'm on, I cannot afford to eat organic in China, and will not stress myself out about living by the book of orthodox veganism, in a country that eats almost every part of an animal and serves it up looking like toufu. 

*As reported by
WorldAtlas, countries with
the most vegans:*
**India (38%), Israel (13%),
Taiwan (12%), Italy (10%),
Austria (9%), Germany (9%),
United Kingdom (9%), Brazil (8%),
Ireland (6%), Australia (5%)**

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Chinese Women's Football Potential & Pitfall

The first Women's Football World Cup (WWC) ever held was, believe it or not, hosted by China. Twelve countries participated in the 1991 WWC event that effectively changed the history of women's football.

Seven World Cups have been played and China has qualified for six; winning second place at the USA 1999 WWC has been their greatest achievement thus far.

However, the National Team has not been doing so well in the last decade; the so-called "Steel Roses" team not even qualifying for the WWC quarterfinals. At the youth level, there are fewer expectations, since China failed to qualify for the latest Under 20 and Under 17 WWCs, were both held last year. Striving to improve the main team, the Chinese Football Association (CFA) signed Bruno Bini (France) as their manager, who had already managed his national team for 7 years. The upcoming challenge for the Steel Roses is the Asian Cup, to be held in Jordan next April.

The Legend

Chinese football legend Sun Wen was elected FIFA Female Player of the Century through an online poll. In total, she participated in four World Cups, 152 international

official matches, scoring 106 goals. She is ranked 5th top goal scorer in World Cup history. She retired from football in 2006, but was part of the coaching staff for the Beijing 2008 Olympics.

The Leagues

The local professional league was re-founded in 2015, when the CFA decided to create two divisions, which added promotions and relegations. The 1st tier league was named the Chinese Women Super League (CWSL), while the 2nd was named the Chinese Women Football League (CWFL). Currently the eight participating teams at CWSL comprise Beijing BG, Changchun Zhuoyue, Dalian Quanjian, Hebei Yuandong, Jiangsu Suning, Shandong JSSF, Shanghai Guotai Jun'an and Tianjin Huisen. Players' salaries have risen from ¥3,000 in 2014, to ¥10,000 in 2016.

In the last two years, CWSL has received various well-known players such as the African Best Player Awardee of 2015 and 2016, Gaelle Enganamouit (Cameroon), and Asisat Oshoala (Nigeria), who joined the Dalian Quanjian team. Other teams such as Jiangsu Suning have also invested in foreign players, including idol Isabell Herlovsen (Norway), and

ex-Dalian player Gabi Zanotti (Brazil). However, the biggest transfer that was made was when the Changchun team bought Cristiane from Paris Saint Germain team, and now she is the highest paid female footballer in the world.

The Critique

However, since their relaunch, both leagues have received little attention. A serious lack of information and advertising makes it very difficult to know where this female sport is heading. To give an example, the CFA website does not even regularly update posts on their own women's tournaments. In fact, the site with the most updates is the China Women National Team's Twitter account, not their Chinese Weibo account.

Here in Nanjing, the Jiangsu Suning team even lacks an official website. Big investments should be backed up by a real show of support and commitment for Women's football. In the interest of improving Women's football in China, the sport must be decisively promoted at education centres, particularly middle and high schools, or universities; why not imitate the successful strategy plans of major male football teams to overcome barriers and misguided views that football is only for men? 



FIVE THINGS THAT YOU PROBABLY DID NOT KNOW:

1 The average attendance at the 2007 China World Cup was 37,200 per game.

2 Jiangsu Suning Ladies Football Club plays its local matches at the Wutaishan Stadium; entrance is free.

3 Jiangsu Suning LFC's next home match is on 27 September.

4 Jiangsu Suning LFC went to Norway in August to play a series of friendly matches.



5 Asian qualifier tournament for 2019 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in France will be played in Nanjing, at the Jiangning Sports Centre from 15 to 28 October. Three teams shall qualify for the WWC.

WHO DO YOU SERVE?

By Tim MacDonald

Having clarity or confusion in answering this simple question will either drive all the right behaviour or leave you waffling in executing your daily mission in life.

Some of you may remember the lyrics of an Grammy award winning song by Bob Dylan.

**You're gonna have to serve somebody, yes
Indeed you're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody**

Isn't this the truth? Every one of us has to serve somebody. The question is, who do you serve?

MISALIGNMENT OF PRIORITIES

Recently I was asked to conduct a leadership development program for a large, well respected, European firm. While their brand is known for quality, their local facility was struggling to produce that for which they are famous.

I asked a roomful of 34 leaders a very simply question; why do you exist?

I could have easily asked today's question, who do you serve? Anyway, with little surprise, I received 20 or more different responses... none of which proved to be the correct one. The right answer... their customers. That facility exists to deliver high quality performance and products to their customers, profitably. Short of that, they fail as an organisation.

I now had a far clearer understanding as to why this facility was struggling; they didn't have a clue as to who they were serving. The management team was extremely busy working, many putting in 12-16 hour days. Yet still they were failing at their basic mission; serving their customers well. How does this happen?

Unfortunately this is not an uncommon story. Organisations and individuals alike often get so caught up in the execution of daily tasks, agendas, etc; achieving their goals, that they quickly forget who they are really serving, and why?

Case in point; many a spouse has forged ahead with the success of their career to provide for their family,

causing them to work long hours, and travel many weeks and months of the year. In doing so, they have sacrificed the most precious asset of a family; time spent in the relationship. Often many wake up to the truth a bit too late; only after the divorce or the children move away to university.

So how about you? Do you know who you serve, and why?

THE TRUE UP!

The great news is, if you have lost your way with regards to knowing who you serve, and why, there is hope!

Here are some simple points of advice to improve relationships with those you serve.

- **Know Your Customers.** Sounds simple, but few do. Make a quick list of who you believe your customers are, both with your firm and/or your family, internal and external.

- **Customer Assessment of Your Performance.** Make time to have a meaningful conversation with your customers; ask them for their assessment of your performance.

If you are a senior leader at your company, do not pass this off to others. Personally sit down with your top clients and ask them how well are you serving them, with regards to quality, timeliness, attitude, etc.

If you are doing this with your spouse and/or children, set up a special lunch or dinner. Ask them similar questions; how well am I serving you? (With my time, attention, money, etc.)

- **Prioritise Change.** Once your customer or family has given you feedback on what they would like to see changed, do it! Not everything can be changed overnight, and most understand this. Set up a schedule to address outstanding issues prioritised from your customer's perspective. Meet regularly to communicate the progress of improvements.

If you have not engaged in this type of activity, or it has been a long time since you have, do it immediately. Your business and relationships will thrive! 📺

Tim MacDonald is the Managing Director of Chrysalis Consulting, a Nanjing based firm that assists MNCs with Operational Excellence, Supply Chain, Organizational and Talent Development challenges. Contact him at

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Chinese Literary Classics

Su Dongpo

By Neil Corrigan

Wherever one goes in the world, there to be found is literature steeped in culture and history, truly inaccessible to all but the most determined.

China is no exception. Unsurprisingly, the country has a vast canon of literary and poetic works. Herein, The Nanjinger lifts the lid on one of the major heavyweight's of classical Chinese and world literature, Su Dongpo. Alert readers who have visited Hangzhou's beautiful West Lake may be familiar with the name, having seen the Su Causeway and a Memorial Museum to the man on the banks of the lake.

Of the three perfections esteemed in traditional Chinese culture, that of poetry, painting and calligraphy, Su Dongpo ticked all the boxes. His poems are renowned for their display of profound erudition and beauty and are prime material for high school textbooks around the country; his painting, well, he created a school which later became one of the most important styles in Chinese fine arts. As for his calligraphy, his work Tie (roughly pronounced T-air) of the Cold Food Festival has been regarded as the third best example of Chinese grass script calligraphy since at least the Ming dynasty (being bested only by the tenth-dan black belts of Chinese calligraphy, Wang Xizhi and Yan Zhenqing), and it is the first poem of two from this scroll that we will discuss briefly here.

Su Dongpo was a prominent government official during the reign of Shenzong, an era punctuated by political factionalism concerning two extremely divisive cliques, that of the conservatives (Su Dongpo and co.) and that of the reformers (Wang Anshi et. al.). This was a time of intrigue and plots where the most innocent of writings could be interpreted by dastardly exegetes as alluding to the shortcomings of prominent figures. It was one of Su's poems that got him in a whole heap of trouble, as the opposition accused him of surreptitiously criticising the man at the top, Wang Anshi, within its ambiguous verse. As a result, he was exiled to a place that could only seem like the other end of the universe to the Song official, Huangzhou, in modern Hubei.

自我来黄州，已过三寒食。

Since arriving at Huangzhou, the Cold Food Festival has already passed 3 times.

年年欲惜春，春去不容惜。

Every year I try to treasure spring, but spring departs not tolerating my sentiments.

今年又苦雨，两月秋萧瑟。

The rains, bitter again this year, for two months the trees have rustled as if in autumn.

The first three lines set the scene. It is 1080 CE. Su Dongpo has

been exiled in the provincial backwater, Huangzhou, for approximately 3 years. It is glorious spring time and the poet wishes it were not so fleeting; it should be convivial to the poet's spirit, yet it is raining, bitter and cold. He is dispirited and continues....

卧闻海棠花，泥污燕脂雪。

Lying down, I am told that flowers of the crab apple have withered and fallen, the dirt sullies this snow of rouge.

Here we really begin to appreciate the craftsmanship of the man. Su Dongpo loved crab apple flowers and was to write a poem about them 4 years later while still exiled in Huangzhou. He is lying down and has heard news of the flowers falling to the ground and likens the scene to a snow of rouge. But the dirt sullies the snow of flower petals. Su Dongpo is in fact referring to himself; he is the fallen petals and the dirt (Huangzhou) has corrupted his talents. As a Confucian, government official and humanitarian, we can only begin to imagine the frustration of being tossed away from the centre of palace politics to a parochial post a million miles from the action.


暗中偷负去，夜半真有力。

In darkness they are stolen, midnight really has a strength of its own.

何殊病少年，病起头已白。

How is this any different from a youth having recovered from illness, only to find a head of grey hair?

The first line is an allusion from the Zhuangzi, one of three seminal texts of the Daoist canon. Su Dongpo, like other classical scholars in imperial China, learnt from an early age by copying books. The idea being that a reader would become much more intimate with a work if he copied it from cover to cover. Su Dongpo coined the idea of disciplined spontaneity, which referred to this very idea; that by becoming so familiar with a work, one could not only recite it, but wield the knowledge spontaneously, should the need arise. The actual meaning of the allusion is that time has taken away the petals, just as it has taken away his best years. In the last line, the poet laments how he has suffered from the illness of exile throughout his formative years. He will be reinstated, but what's the use? His best days will have passed and he will have degenerated. Fortunately for us (and history), Su Dongpo was eventually reinstated and once again became a vigorous participant in palace politics (but was again exiled twice more).

Only once we peer into this remote literature may we understand the true majesty of the man's craft, but we can already begin to marvel at the genius of Su Dongpo. 



FOR ARTS SAKE *with Francesca Leiper*

Virtual Art Exhibition VS Child Poverty Relief

For 10 consecutive days this summer, Aha School took 130,000 Chinese children on a virtual tour of some of the world's greatest museums, from the Louvre to the Guggenheim, the Vatican to Tokyo's National Science Museum. Each day, parents and children signed in to watch a 90 minute live broadcast from a different museum followed by an interactive chat show, all for the humble price of ¥19.9.

The idea first came to Wang Yuhao, founder and CEO of the virtual education platform, on a visit to Sichuan to investigate how education could help bring children out of poverty. "I suddenly wondered whether it would be possible to give these children the chance to experience a few world-class museums", he wrote in Sixth Tone, and with at least 100,000 families on board, it would be possible to do so for the price of only a meal.

The ten museums chosen covered a broad spectrum across art, history and science, but the final list was subject to limitations as some museums were more cooperative than others or simply quicker to respond. Practicality of filming, the target audience and the significance behind each exhibit all came into play when devising the content for each program.

"Our greatest challenge", Wang told me, "was uncertainty. When we launched, we had confirmed nothing. No museums were confirmed, no anchors, we hadn't decided which exhibits would be discussed, nor the script or how we would deliver".

The project was very much a living one, an educational practice in itself, from idea to execution. While children were guided virtually through each museum, parents simultaneously wrote reams of commentary, which Aha School then used to improve the broadcast for the following day. "My daughter is transfixed and we adults

can enjoy it too!" wrote one parent, "We'd like to see more of the museum itself and the beautiful architecture".

Several parents and children watching expressed their hopes for similar broadcasts, allowing them to virtually experience places outside of China without the expenses or hassle of travelling. But not everyone found it their cup of tea, "We can read better introductions to these paintings on Baidu!", was an overheard comment, or they were simply distracted and baffled by details; "Why is the host wearing slippers?"

Of course, most of this information can be found online, but what made this special was its live aspect. "Our task was to piece together these fragments of information and to allow children to digest them", said Wang. "The key to our broadcasts was to enthuse children, to make them interested."

They did so, not by filming after hours in search of the perfect silent shot, but by filming from bustling museums where ordinary people walked through the screen, sometimes even blocking exhibits, giving viewers a sense that they too are there. In one case, the Guggenheim in New York showed such great support that they offered to film after closure and arranged a curator to explain the artworks through a translator.

Summer holidays should not be spent nose in book learning English, maths and science. That's what school is for. To offer over 100,000 children the chance to travel the world and virtually visit museums from their own home is a remarkable achievement and proves the power and potential of virtual learning platforms. Through the support of individual donations, Aha School was also able to give some children this chance for free, where ¥19.9 goes much further than just one meal. We await round two in February! 🌍



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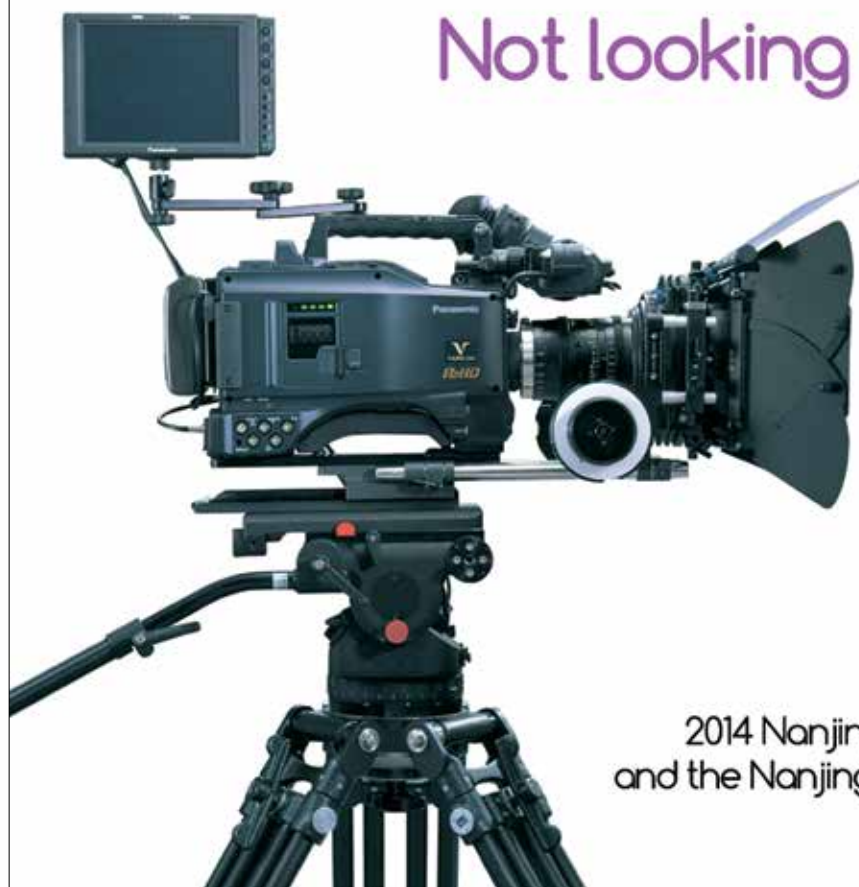
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From Green to Red

Tea's Good & Bad Times

By *Matthew Stedman*

Every tea region in China has seen good times and bad times. Lost decades are not unusual in this business. The tea fields of Xinyang City (信阳市) in Guangshan County (光山县), Henan, are no exception.

One dynasty was particularly unkind. Sadly for Xinyang, that dynasty was the Qing, the longest of them all, spanning 1644 to 1912. It's not that the Qing Emperors didn't drink tea; the Qian Long emperor specifically wrote about China's "best" green teas. His omission of Xinyang tea was damning and lasting. Tea production flourished in provinces closer to Nanjing during these centuries, leaving the Western Huainan (西淮南) region behind.

Green tea had been grown successfully in Xinyang for a long period before that. It was mentioned as one of the eight tea regions in Lu Yu's (陆羽) *Cha Jing* (茶经). However, this was not the Mao Jian (毛尖) we associate with Xinyang today. That green tea is specifically a 20th Century phenomenon. The town's tea industry was revived afresh in the early Republic era, apparently making a splash at the 1915 Panama Tea Expo.

Mao Jian is a delightful, creamy green tea. One day, I'll write a Strainer about it. One day, I will actually go to Henan!

Yet, this column isn't about the famous green tea of the region; it's about a tea recently introduced to me by a new friend. He is from the region. And he preferred to give me some red tea (what we Westerners usually call "black tea") from Xinyang.

Closer inspection reveals a tea with very spindly, straight leaves that are of uneven length, with some pale sporting downy hairs. Like a lapsang, it is lightly smoked. Infused only by the moisture of the room, the aroma is already wonderfully chocolatey!

For me, it is a unique drinking experience, too. There is an umami aftertaste a little like a green tea; not Mao Jian, specifically, but slightly reminiscent of greens. There is a maltiness, too, but not the malty tang of Indian black teas or a cheap keemun. It's as subtle as the Fujian reds, and just as rewarding.

In the context of history, this red tea reflects the town's flexibility, and also its bravery. Only in the last decade has red tea production been undertaken. There are risks associated with diluting the identity of a strong green tea quasi-brand in a culture where such tea names are often recited and remembered as lists. Mao Jian featured in "Top Four" lists of green teas throughout the 20th century, though its lustre has perhaps dulled a little in recent decades, just as Henan itself suffers a slight lack of cool currently.

Fortunes fluctuate. I am no businessman, but, from my position as a taster, diversification like this creates very welcome experiences and talking points. Certainly, China's red tea needs to receive more love, from Chinese customers, too. Perhaps re-naming this tea "Guangming Red Tea" could help establish an identity as strong, but separate from, its famous green sibling. 🍵



Learning to Fly ...Fail

It was 17 December, 1903, when a controlled and powered flying machine, built by the Wright brothers, called the "Wright Flyer 1", on its third attempt of the day, took off, achieving a maximum distance and altitude of approximately 61 metres and 3 metres, respectively.

Although this was one of the most significant events in the history of human mass transportation in general, it was also the consequence of a very long period of trial and error, dating as far back as the 16th century, with Leonardo da Vinci's sketches and studies of aerodynamics.

As with most stories of triumph and success, this was also filled with a tremendous amount of failure, by different people, during different periods, from many countries, utilising different approaches. It was failure after failure after failure, sometimes at the cost of lives.

Non-fulfilment has always been either the biggest driver or the strongest inhibitor of our creativity, depending on our perspective and attitude. We are raised to fear failure, and in some cases it can be so strong as to completely shut down our thinking process, discouraging us from even making a first attempt. Since our early years of education, we are (mostly) taught that failure is to be avoided at all cost; it is associated with shame, a lack of character, laziness, underperformance, and many other damning attributes. This misconception is especially accentuated during our early teen years, when we are most sensitive to judgement and scrutiny from our peers, when we are most desperate to fit into our environment.

It has been argued at length that the undermining of our natural creativity is a result of most countries' education systems, designed to make us fit into a societal pattern to satisfy specific socioeconomic demands, while also putting us under considerable pressure and fear.

This is terribly detrimental because our natural learning process varies from individual to individual. In a standardised education system, we are given very little room for experimentation and practically none for failure; an indispensable component of a healthy and natural learning process.

When we fail, our brain automatically goes into an analytical mode; if we are focused on the task in hand and committed to finding positive results, we will take all the information and reconfigure it to find new alternatives or possible solutions. In this scenario, failure becomes nothing to fear and instead an attempt, a step closer to what would be a final solution.

In other words, once we accept failure as an integral part of the learning or creation process and something to embrace, we give ourselves the opportunity to learn from it.

The great new is that it is possible to train yourself to deal with the inevitable eventuality of failure, and optimise your learning process, which most importantly, saves you time and the pain of dealing with negative emotions.

We do this by:

1. Accepting that failure will inevitably happen and embracing it as a natural part of any process.

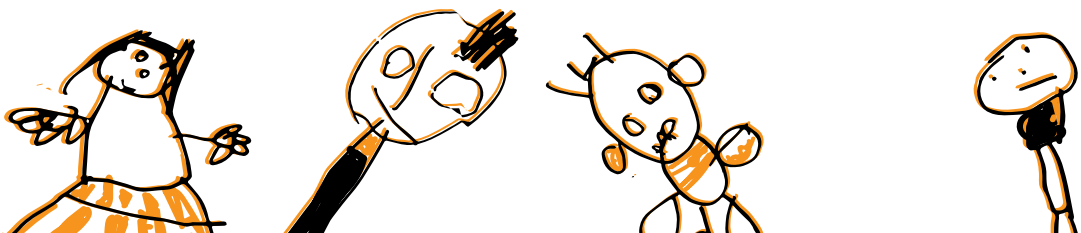
Just as martial artists are trained to deflect attack and use that energy to their advantage, you can train yourself to expect failure; not fear it and instead use it as a positive way of learning and gathering experience.

2. Not fearing the ridiculous; forget about what other people think.

There is no big success or originality without a certain amount of ridiculousness in its conception. Do not worry about what other people might think, they cannot possibly understand your personal process and what you have been through. Your personal and very own life experience is what gives you an unique perspective.

3. Trusting your gut, trusting your brain.

Your brain is designed to automatically organise and analyze all the information you feed to it; unless you sabotage it with negative thoughts and feelings, your brain will work to find alternatives and solutions. 🧠



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Find out more at tedxyouthnis.com or sign up by scanning the QR code below.



OUR SPACE

GASTRONOMY *By Renee Gray*

Whatever will be; Ramsay's Influence in Nanjing

Que sera sera, whatever will be will be, the world is not ours to see, que sera sera! This lovely classic was the inspiration for the name of owner Frank Cheung's French fusion fine dining restaurant.

Que Sera Sera is truly a Nanjing gem. Hidden by Xuanwu Lake, it offers beautiful sunset views of the lake, while the back of the restaurant steps down into a smaller lake. The restaurant stands alone with plenty of wide-open space both around and inside.

Surrounded by nature, sitting on the balcony with a glass of wine or a coffee and watching the sunset and people go by is absolute bliss. The interior features a small cocktail/coffee bar and function space. With tables up and down the stairs; the place sports a very trendy minimalist feel.



Please let me not speak too much of the décor, for that surely is not what you are here for. As for the food, it comes second to non-when it comes to fine dining in Nanjing. While Chef Leo Zhang trained in well-known Michelin star Cantonese

cuisine restaurant, The Hakkasan, in Qatar, he also spent 1 year learning from Mr. Gordon Ramsay himself. So you can rest assured you will be getting what you pay for.

On the menu for The Nanjinger were seven courses of fine fusion cuisine. First up, a white goose liver (half pate half cream) smothered with pomegranate sauce, which was dipped with toasted and lightly buttered bread. Next came seared goose liver served with fig, then a soft boiled egg (from Japan where the chickens are served organic feed, darling) served in a creamy truffle sauce, followed by a pork cheek which was just delectable, then New Zealand deer and lamb chops with rosemary and finally cheese cake with ice-cream and sherbet sprinkles.

All of that washed down with top-shelf white and red and I was ready for bed!



The meal was splendid while our hosts, owner Frank and manager Skye, were attentive; laid back, very informative and passionate about what they do. Dining at Que Sera Sera was a fabulous evening and I recommend it to anyone yearning for a slice of Europe.

Be sure to inquire about their fusion dishes, as mixing French and Chinese cuisine is certainly an art form. What I thought was coffee ice-cream on top of my cheesecake was in fact a Chinese brown sugar-based ice-cream, which provided a lovely effect. These petite details are what make the menu here all the more worth it.

It is somewhat telling that our biggest disappointment was in the fact that it has taken 3 years for us to find Que Sera Sera; Cheung confessed to his not being aware of the size of Nanjing's foreign population. Once they get wind of it, Que Sera Sera may need to consider closing their doors later; at present on weekdays, it's go home around 9.30, extended to 11ish at weekends.

QUE SERA SERA is located by the entrance to the Lovers Park on Yanguang Lu (opposite Sun Palace) 阳光路十里长堤情侣园入口处(太阳宫对面). Tel: 025-58823911 - 18013341273

Sandwiches Cut Diagonally Just Taste Better, Like Pizza

A fflable Canadian Shaun Hanna is one crafty fella. Over a year ago, toying with the idea of opening a pizza shop in Nanjing, he figured what better way to acquire the necessary knowledge than to write his thesis on the subject of opening a restaurant franchise chain?

Now, as we enter Nanjing's autumn, the mother ship of the chain is now a reality, located alongside the domineering Yingtian Da Jie overhead expressway, not far from the positively overpowering, new Golden Eagle development in Hexi, while two more Mai Pizza could also be opening up, in different parts of the city, by year end.

The pizza is excellent, no question, up there with the tried and tested best that Nanjing has to offer elsewhere, although Hanna himself is also quick to acknowledge that on account of local tastes, he is unlikely to be producing much pizza with that slightly burnt crust that foreigners love so much.

For The Nanjinger, the sandwiches are the absolute standout. For let's face it; until now, a good sandwich was nigh on impossible in Nanjing (a certain German bakery sometimes excepting). At Mai Pizza, the humble but classic clubhouse sandwich, a staple on many a hotel room-service menu in China, has never had it so good. And yes, that's Canadian-style gravy in the photo below.



There then come the BLT and various flat bread options, from which we sampled a chicken version that was truly impossible to fault.

Hanna also had a year to get the pizza dough right, and that meant experimenting with different types of flour. Having eventually found one to meet his exacting standards, the next challenge was the minimum order amount; two tons to be ex-

act. Yet, the canny upstart has done well, having got through half of this in the couple of months since opening.

Any self respecting thesis examining a food delivery service would no doubt be adamant that price entry levels must be extremely competitive. Mai Pizza hits the spot so sweetly one wonders how on earth they turn a profit.

Said thesis would also highly recommend an APP as the best online way to touch its clients. Hanna has followed suit, with both an Android and iOS version that is, however, something of a work in progress.

MAI PIZZA is located at 839-6 Yingtian Da Jie, Jianye District 南京建邺区应天大街839-6. Tel: 13913993477. A second location is slated to open on 1st October in Pukou District's Qiaobei, at Unit 112, Dept. 8, Business Block 16, Tianrun City, 5 Tianhua Nan Lu 浦口区天华南路5号天润城第十六街区商业08幢112室. 📍

Street Kebabs With Style

There comes a day when every expat in Nanjing decides they are finally brave enough to try street food. Amongst the plethora of dumplings, rice, and noodles, an intrepid (and hungry) adventurer may discover Xinjiang meat skewers and naan; an acceptable enough alternative to the doner and kebab often found in our home countries. Alternatives, however, never fulfill our cravings for the real thing, and those who yearn kebab here have ultimately gone unsatisfied, until now.



Located near Nanjing University, Ultra Kebab is the answer to those cravings. Not quite Middle Eastern, and definitely not Chinese, the cafe is the type of place one might find themselves after a European football match.

Ultra Kebab fulfills this niche well, sporting European decor and serving up imported brews alongside its food offerings. While some places in this vein may be a bit dingy, Ultra Kebab

is anything but. Though small, the space here is clean and cozy, utilizing its tables, bars, and outdoor patio to the fullest extent. Everything appears freshly renovated, including the kitschy, yet stylish, mirrored bathroom area.

While the ambiance tells you Ultra Kebab is not your typical Chinese street food fare, the menu, or lack of one, backs it up whole-heartedly. Aside from a few secondary options; fish and chips, for instance; there is no menu.

Here, the kebabs are what you make them. After choosing from three sizes (small, medium and Ultra), customers can select from a multitude of fillings, such as tomato, onion, pits chips and pickles, as well as a wide variety of sauces. All selected ingredients are then thrown together with doner style chicken in a wrap to created a personalized culinary masterpiece. Or, at least, a delicious kebab that really impacts the taste buds.

While some may be disappointed that chicken is the only filling currently available, it is clean, tasty and will surely satisfy all your kebab cravings.

There comes a day when every expat needs something besides Chinese cuisine. For those looking for the street food of home, Ultra Kebab delivers.

Ultra Kebab is located at 23 Nan Xiu Cun Hao 南秀村23号.
Tel: 18260050214. 📞

LITERATURE *By Frank Hossack*

From Nanjing Came Shanghai's Darkest Hours

When we think of bombs falling on our city, we usually imagine them coming from far away, perhaps from an enemy country. We rarely imagine them from just down the road.

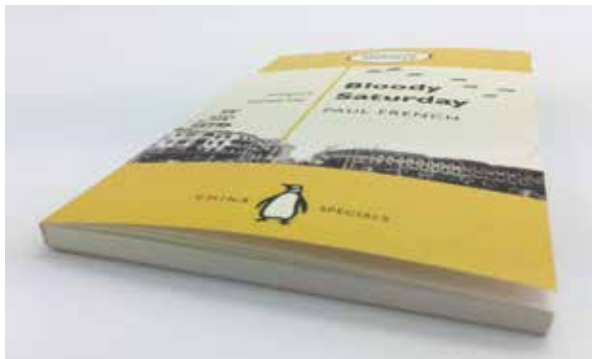
Yet, that is the first fact that dawns on us during the opening of "Bloody Saturday", penned by Paul French ("Midnight in Peking") and one of the latest offerings from Penguin China, with a release timed to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the events in Shanghai covered in the book.

"In the space of one night, Shanghai had gone from the legendary 'Paris of the East' to become a dark, frightened city of refugees."

The Japanese battle cruiser Idzumo was moored off The Bund and alongside the Japanese Consulate. It was from this incredulous location that the cruiser launched volley after volley of shells targeted at the city's Zhabei district and the then North Railway Station. Hence the mass exodus on the right.

Thus is set the grim tone for the rest of the book.

In 1937, Shanghai experienced the weather of a typical August; hot days punctuated by the edges of typhoons that batter Taiwan; it gives the pages a nice metaphor for the horrors taking place on the streets below.



French's matter of fact style of prose supplies an almost documentary tone to the timeline of events. He is almost nonchalant over the work's entire crux; that of the Chinese air-force departing Nanjing and proceeding to accidentally bomb their own people along the Shanghai Bund and what is now Yan'nan Lu, during which one shell fell directly through the roof of the Palace Hotel (now the Swatch Art Peace Hotel).

With the numbers left alive today that witnessed the events first hand withering, French's book becomes a historical document hitherto unwritten. That he quotes exclusively from foreigners living in Shanghai at the time may be deliberate, but it has also attracted him a storm of criticism.

That in and of itself, however, does not make "Bloody Saturday" any less of an excellent read, from start to end. 📖



Réfugiés de Hongkew sur le Garden Bridge

© Penguin China, photograph courtesy of Randall Gould

The first authorised Suzuki motorbike dealer in Jiangsu province enjoyed an opening ceremony in its new home that is also the location of the Nanjing CC Motorsports Boutique in the city's Yuhuatai District, coincidentally celebrating their first anniversary on the same day.

Born To Be Wild

26th August, 2017



The British School of Nanjing used their 10th birthday as an excuse for a first day with a difference, in which parents and children alike were able to enjoy activities such as a treasure hunt that took in the school's magnificent green grounds, or a chance to try out on the football pitch. Inside, there were cupcakes for all and a large book sale plus dignitaries present from the Nanjing and Jiangning governments, as well as the British Consulate in Shanghai.

Mark Me Absent

21st August, 2017



In a series of renovation projects at Nanjing International School during the summer, the PreK/K1 classrooms were remodelled, the corridor walls in Primary School redone and the MYP prototype classrooms were renovated, just in time to welcome 122 new students joining the school at the very beginning of this academic year.

Be True to Your School

9-10 August, 2017



There was a buzz of excitement in the air as EtonHouse Nanjing got the new school year off to a good start by welcoming 40 new students, together with six new staff, from the US, Scotland, Philippines, Australia and Ireland, all ready for the learning journey ahead.

Everybody's Got to Learn Sometime

14th August, 2017





The Law and The Chinese Outdoor

In recent years, outdoor travel has become a new lifestyle in China. People tend to go outdoors to experience something different from daily life. It is not just about adventure and challenges, but also to manifest the expression, "To outdoor, to be myself". It is a combination of fitness, travel, adventure, entertainment, self-recognition, etc. According to the report published by Chinawalking.net.cn, outdoor travel in 2016 surpassed 130 million person-trips.

It is no doubt a huge market but we should also take a look at the following numbers. In 2016, according to incomplete statistics, there were 311 outdoor accidents, in which 64 people died and three people went missing. The numbers are indeed small compared to the total amount. However, every life counts; each person was the whole world to their loved ones.

Nobody wants accidents. However, the risk is there, whether you recognise it or not. Therefore, from a legal point of view, what are the organisers responsibilities in such outdoor travel activities?

Generally, there are two different kinds of groups in terms of outdoor travel. One is the non-profit, self-organised group, and the other is professional tourism by a company/club.

Due to contractual relationships between the attendees and the professional tourism company/club, the organiser is obliged to assure the safety of travellers. Then what about the organisers in the self-organised groups? Do they take the same responsibilities as the tourism companies?

In 2013, a female traveller unfortunately fell from a mountain while climbing and died. Her family sued the organiser and the group leader for ¥809,065.02. After the second instance, the organiser was ruled to take on 10 percent of the liability and the group leader was ruled to take on 5 percent.

In 2014, a male traveler went climbing but drowned during the outing. His family sued the climbing organisation and the group leaders for about ¥410,000. The court rejected all


claims by the plaintiff.

Why the different rulings under similar circumstances?

In accordance with the Tort Law of People's Republic of China, managers of public places such as hotels, shopping markets, banks, bus stations plus entertainment venues and the organisers of en-mass activities shall bear tortious liability for injury or damage done to other people as a result of their failure to fulfill their duty of care.

In the first case, the organiser failed to fully remind the victim of the actual risk and essential equipment for the climbing, while in the second case, the organiser fulfilled their duty; the victim chose a different way from the others, which caused the tragedy. Therefore, whether the organiser or the group leader shall take liabilities depends on if they have fulfilled their duty of care.

In order to avoid danger and dispute during outdoor travels, The Nanjinger presents the following useful tips:

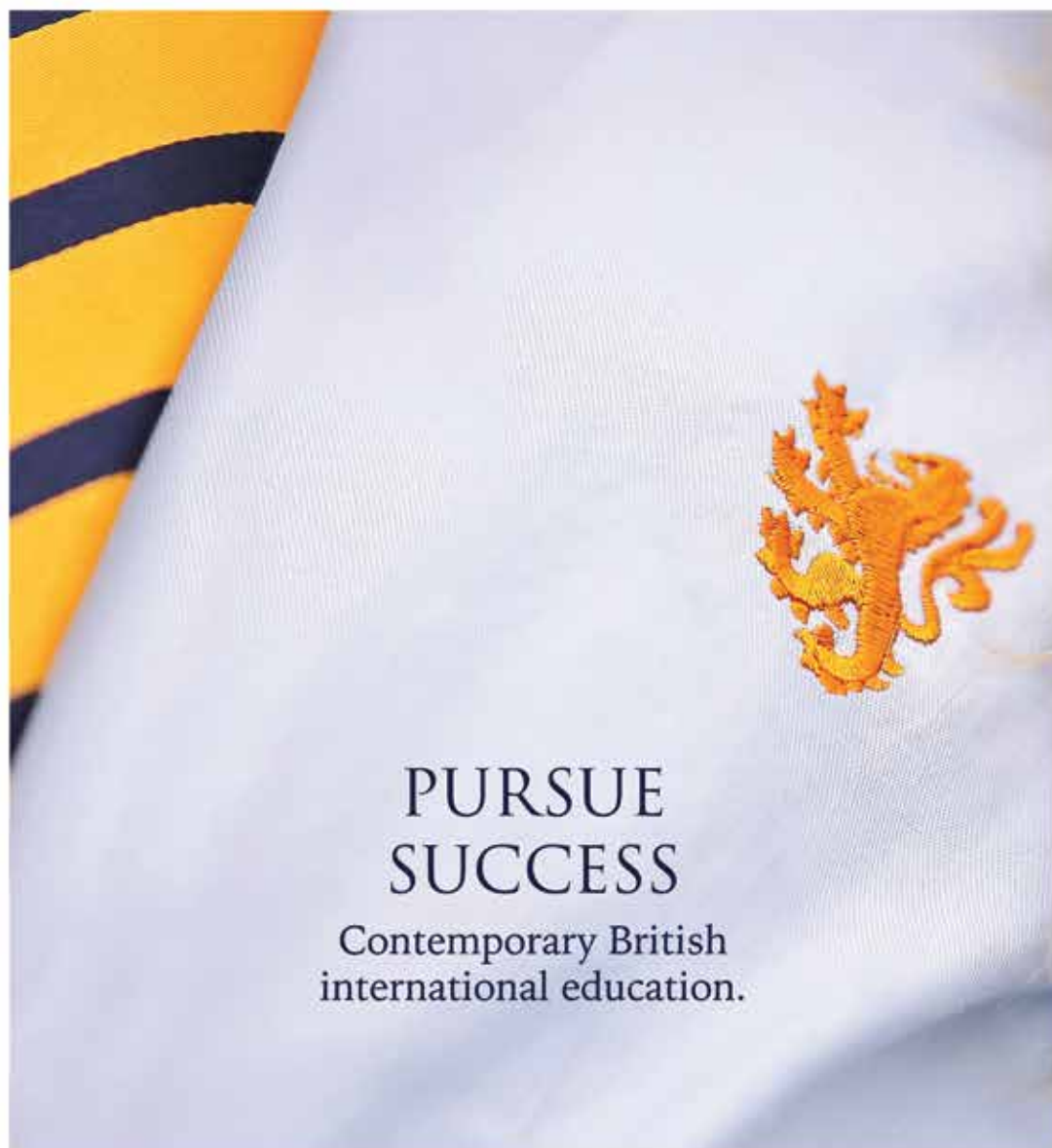
1. Both organisers and participants of outdoor travel shall be honest to disclose their own physical situation during preparations for the activity. The organisers' ability and experience should be made known to participants so that they can make judgments and choices accordingly.
2. Organisers should arrange the activities carefully and responsibly. Travel routes shall be chosen carefully and take full account of risks. Participants shall be informed of all risks and shall be capable of handling such risks.
3. Organisers should consider in advance potential risks and relevant rescue measures. With the outbreak of danger, the organiser shall provide the necessary rescue actions, but only within their capacity.
4. Both organisers and participants shall purchase relevant insurance in advance. 

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